

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

I am requesting funding for Wellness Works Community and Wellness Works Community Annex in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Emory University, located at 201 Dowman Drive, Atlanta GA 30332.

Violence is a public health problem in under-resourced urban areas with high rates of poverty, crime, and health disparities. Atlanta, Georgia had 157 gun-related homicides among 14-24 year old individuals in 2020, a 58% increase over 2019. Victims of violence often suffer psychological trauma as well as physical injuries. Most are discharged to the challenging and chaotic environments in which they were hurt, without additional supports to address the issues that led to their injuries. Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIP) have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing trauma re-injury. Where re-injury rates reach up to 50% in their absence, HVIPs can reduce rates to as low as 4%. Emory is launching the region's first HVIP. UHI's WWC and Annex programs will provide corollary community interventions to support the victims of urban violence in the greater Atlanta area. WWC and Annex Programs provide comprehensive, individualized case management, wrap-around, and therapeutic services to individuals ages 14-40 (focus on teens) who have experienced trauma associated with violence, resulting in reduced violence in high-risk communities. With federal investment, the program will directly engage and/or train 300 individuals and indirectly impact 750 individuals.

Grant funding will pay for planning, instruction, educational supplies, stipends for program participants, recreation center memberships, surveys, program evaluation, and program staff personnel as well as indirect costs for Emory University and contractors. Salaries will be paid to the program director, the compliance/quality assurance manager, coordinator of clinical services, case managers, one peer mentor, one student, a primary investigator, and three co-investigators. Other programmatic offerings such as counseling and therapy sessions, nutritional education, and job training resources. This program will also assist with affordable housing and transportation through our community partnerships. This is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because hospital-based violence

Intervention programs have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing trauma re-injury, and this is particularly important in an area where there has been an increase in gun violence related homicides.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.”  
Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nikema Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress